

**Upper Missisquoi and Trout Rivers Wild and Scenic Committee Minutes**  
**Thursday, November 18, 2021 – Zoom Meeting**

**Attendees:** Carol Hickey, Wendy Scott, Russ Ford, Cynthia Scott, Jacques Couture, Lindsey Wight, Dan Seeley, Sarah Lunn, John Little, Jim McCarthy, Noah Pollock.

**Review of October Minutes:** DS made a motion to accept. JL seconded, all in favor. Minutes approved as written.

**River Community and Town Infrastructure Grants**

- **2021 Grants:**
  - Northern Forest Canoe Trail submitted their Sampsonville assessment (2020 grant). Noah Pollock from NFCT joined us to review progress on the project to remove old dam materials from the old Sampsonville dam. 75 cubic yards of concrete with rebar are left in. He showed photos of where the remains are in the river and gave us an estimate of the cost. The next step is to figure out how to fund this project.
    - Access to the water may be an issue, depending on erosion from other properties
    - Permits are expected to be easy to get
    - East Highgate - FWS used their equipment however less likely to be available to use now
    - Unknown if the dam had been blasted, or if remnants were scattered by water/ice
    - use concrete for portage trail? but putting fill into the floodplain may not be permitted. Maybe a farm could use the pieces?
  - Missisquoi Valley School District submitted their final report.
  - Berkshire has completed the Marvin Road culvert replacement.
- **2022 Grants:**
  - This year we had 11 applications for River Community Grants for 2022 requesting a total of \$55,887.80. SL gave an overview of the 11 grants. A committee reviewed the grant proposals using a rubric. The result was 6 “Yes”, 2 “Maybe” and 3 “No”. We only have money for the 6 highest scoring grants. RS made a motion to fund the 6 grants. WS seconded. All in favor. Lindsey will let grantee’s know by December.

**Town Infrastructure grants** are due by December 1, 2021. JL to get an article into papers about our grant dollars.

**Other projects:**

- The Troy Covered Bridge survey is now out in the form of post cards and on-line surveys.
- 2022 Access point project. Possible places are, East Richford, Chase Dam in North Troy and Stevens Mills. Lindsey asked the board which one to choose for this year. RF made a motion to do the access point at Chase Dam. SC seconded. All in favor.
- Discussion of paddle trips for next summer:
  - Paddle Picnic

- Kayak day tours
- Explorers Trip
- Guided tours with naturalists
- Paddling lessons and/or paddle instruction and then a paddle tour
  - Get bids? Ask for qualifications, reputation, etc

**Strategies for engagement:**

- Speakers at the beginning of our meetings. Give a \$100 stipend for 5 sessions (I think that was the idea???) Suggested speakers include, Michael Lew-Smith or Jeff Parsons, ANR, Hildreth's white water, wood turtles, birds, covered bridges, history of logging, harvesting ice on the river.

**2023 Budget - \$165,000.**

- LW asked if there were any suggestions for changes for next year.
- WS: More money for grants?
- JM: Focus on Diversity/Equity/Inclusion. Increase access to more people. Jim suggested talking to other Partners groups about this. Lindsey suggested other Vermont groups may have some ideas as well.
- RF: Removal of Sampsonville Dam debris.

**Other/Public Comment**

- DEI, how do we do that? Hire a consultant?

**Upcoming Meeting:** December 16<sup>th</sup>, Potluck at the Enosburg Emergency Services Building at 5PM? – unless we feel that we should have a Zoom meeting due to COVID.

**Wrap up and Adjourn:** CS made a motion to adjourn, CH seconded. All in favor. Meeting Adjourned at 8:26 pm.